

LATE AND INTERESTING INTELLIGENCE, FROM CALIFORNIA, OREGON, CENTRAL AMERICA, NEW GRENADA, AND THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

The Pacific and Central American mails by the steamer Illinois, which arrived at New York on Wednesday morning, reached this city yesterday morning. Her news is of a highly interesting character.

We are related to the Alta California for the following summary of the news for the fortnight ending April 6:

The abundance of rain that has fallen in all parts of the State has been of great benefit, not only to the miner, by supplying him with water for gold-washing, free of cost, but in localities where it could not otherwise have been obtained, but also to the farmer and herdsman, in promoting a luxuriant growth of grain and grass. The winter has been one of uncommon severity, much snow having fallen in the mountain districts, impeding travel in some districts, and interfering with the labor of the miners to a considerable extent.

The spring, however, has opened with the most delightful and favorable weather, warm and pleasant. The trails have been cleared of snow, the roads are drying up, and all is in a state of activity. The husbandman and gardener in an advanced state, and the vegetation of all kinds growing with great rapidity. The entire surface of California is at this time covered with fields of grain or grass, or blossoming like one vast garden of wild flowers. From all quarters the reports are favorable to a prolific harvest, and fruit also promises to be abundant.

The business of mining, as will be seen by reference to our summary of news, as well as by every where prosperous. Never before have the miners, as a class, been doing better business. To mention the fact that this is the case is to mention a condition of that important interest, capital is required to construct ditches, excavate tunnels, open leads, and erect quartz mills; all of which, when judiciously undertaken, are now demonstrated to afford not only safe, but lucrative openings for investment. It is no longer the matter of surprise that capitalists abroad have not shown greater readiness to put their money in enterprises now known to be so secure and profitable.

The Sonora expedition, under Mr. Cabb, had at last accounts, reached Fort Yuma, without accident and in good health. After halting a day or two at this post, he and his party were pushed on into the Gadsden purchase, adjacent to Sonora, and perhaps into that province itself. The legislature have granted a franchise of twenty years for a bridge over the Sacramento, opposite the city. It has caused much dissatisfaction to the citizens of that place and the inhabitants of the northern part of the State.

Serious dissensions have arisen amongst the Mormons, both at San Bernardino and Salt Lake.

The latest accounts from Carson Valley represent the snow as still being deep on the Sierras; grass was quite luxuriant in the Valley; the cattle were fat, agricultural prospects good, the miners making fair wages, and affairs generally in a prosperous condition.

FROM BOGOTA.

We have news from Bogota to March 17th. The *Gaceta Oficial* and the *Tiempo* publish the correspondence between Messrs. Bowlin and Morse and Mrs. Pombo and Gonzales.

New Grenada rejects the demands of the United States government and claims the sum of \$150,000 from the United States for damages done to Panama and New Grenada by Americans on the 15th of April; that the United States owes reparation to New Grenada for the rude protest of Col. Ward, dated April 21, and for the disrespectful letters of Commodore Mervine and Captain Bailey.

The notes of Srs. Pombo and Gonzales are long, and full of all sorts of assertions and incorrect deductions.

In the house of representatives it has been proposed to raise a loan of \$500,000 in case New Grenada was attempted to be invaded by the United States.

Hon. Isaac E. Morse arrived by the British steamer at Aspinwall from Carthagena.

EXCITEMENT OF THE LITHIUM.

The Aspinwall correspondent of the New York Express writes on the 20th:

The alarming aspect of our relations with New Grenada is creating great excitement here. Immediate war with the United States is apprehended.

The property-holders of Panama have begun already to calculate the chances of loss during the scenes which may yet transpire before the settlement of the difficulties between this country and the United States.

For some weeks past they have openly declared that the United States is approaching them with the intention of making a rupture, and the result would be the temporary posting of United States troops on the isthmus, but that meantime much should be done.

In fact, a plot was formed for the seizure of the specie from the United States, and the prompt precautions taken postponed it for a while. It was, however, at once, and the postal and tonnage tax must be collected at once, and in future, and all that is due must be paid forthwith, and then they ask themselves how the attempt to enforce this can be made. It can be used as a pretext for another riot—*an affair to seize the specie in transit.*

IMPORTANCE OF NICARAGUA.

(Correspondence of the New York Express.)

ASPINWALL, April 20.

The latest news from Central America is via Costa Rica. We have a report from the steamer Panama, which arrived at Aspinwall on the 12th inst., bringing dates from April 1, from Rivas, and to the 24th of April from San José; and also have Costa Rican files to April 4, and an official letter from Gen. Mora, the chief of the allied forces, dated near Rivas, April 1, addressed to the Minister of War at San José, and printed on the 8th.

All these advices state that Walker is hemmed in at Rivas by all the allied forces, and that he is surrounded by some Guatemalan troops, which had landed at Rodejo, and were expected in a day or two. He has over six hundred men; is well entrenched; living on mule and dog meat; fighting all at every point; his men deserting him at the rate of five per day; the allies fighting with 2,400 men against his one-pound.

A letter from the commander of the fort Castillo Viejo says a large number of filibusters are now (April 29—2, p.m.) landing; and adds that he is certain to destroy them, and to hold his post. The papers say said force numbers four hundred and sixty men.

FROM GREYTOWN.—MOVEMENTS OF THE BRITISH FLEET.—CLOSING SCENES OF THE LOCKRIDGE EXPEDITION.

ASPINWALL, April 20.

On the 17th instant the frigates *Cossack* and *Tartar* brought to Aspinwall the intelligence that Lockridge had desisted from his attempt to get through to Walker from the San Juan river, and was about to return to the United States.

The *San Juan* river, and also the *Tennessee*, and a few other who did not wish to be removed from Greytown, (or Punta Arenas), San Juan del Norte. The number brought by the frigates was about three hundred and seventy.

We may learn by the frigates that Lockridge, Anderson, and a few others, remained at Greytown, and that the steam-frigate *Orion* had gone to Carthagena. The *Archer* and two gun-boats were left in the harbor of Greytown.

The story of Lockridge's withdrawal, and of the circumstances which subsequently transpired at Greytown, is told somewhat as follows:

Lockridge, after reconnoitering Castillo, concluded he could not take it, and the question was submitted to the men whether the river should be abandoned, which was decided in the affirmative.

On their way down the river in two boats, the *Scott* and *Rescue*, the former in advance, a good look-out was kept for the enemy. Fearful they might be surprised at the mouth of the Serapiqui, the *Scott* was run near the bank, considerably above that point, and a canoe detached to ascertain if there was a post there. During this precaution, the boiler of the *Scott* burst, and killed and wounded—

[Here follow particulars, which have already been published.]

Lockridge's arrival with the wounded from the steamer *Scott* was an hour and a half after the steamer *Tennessee* left Punta Arenas for Aspinwall. When Lockridge came down again with the remainder of his men, the *Tennessee* was going out of the harbor, the captain having refused to wait for them, and having taken only a part of those who were on the *Point* when he arrived. He had no load about him.

The men, after they found they could not go on the *Tennessee*, were anxious for some means of transportation part of the way at least towards the United States. They had given up their arms to Lockridge. Believing afterwards that their arms would aid them in securing passage, they went for them, and Lockridge refused to give them.

No arrangement, however, was made. They were then told that the British fleet would send them away if they would give up their arms. They at once handed all their arms up to Mr. Scott.

The captain of the schooner refused to give any particulars, but it came out, however, that several large vessels are now on their way from Africa to Cuba, with full cargoes of slaves, some with as many as *seven hundred* on board.

On the 12th the Col. Cauty who was with Spencer at the taking of the steamer, and who commanded the *Scott*, arrived in the harbor of Greytown with one hundred

and fifty Costa Ricans under his command on the steamer *Morgan*.

Col. Cauty is an Englishman, and the son of an Englishman who formerly kept a hotel in San Jose, in Costa Rica.

Col. C. came down to Greytown to act as the representative of Costa Rica. On his arrival, Mr. Scott went on board the British man-of-war, whither Col. C. had gone, after being boarded by one of her boats.

There Captain Eskridge, the senior officer of H. B. M.'s fleet at San Juan del Norte, or Greytown, proposed to Colonel Cauty, on behalf of the Costa Rican government, and to Mr. Scott, on the part of Charles Morgan & Son, and the filibusters, an arrangement for sending away Lockridge's men, after giving Colonel Cauty to understand that he would allow no fighting in that harbor, if matters could be amicably settled, and intimating plainly to Mr. Scott that if he entered into his arrangement he should be fully protected, and if not he must take care of himself and the property under his charge.

THE CONTRACT WITH THE BRITISH.

The contract to which the three parties subscribed was somewhat in this wise:

1st. A bill on Morgan & Son was to be drawn by Scott, endorsed by Colonel Cauty, on behalf of the Costa Rican government, and secured by pledge and deposit in Mr. Scott's hands, under the strict guard of the British fleet, of all the arms and ammunition of Lockridge and the iron steamer "Rescue."

2d. That Scott should pledge himself that none of this security nor any of the other property in his charge should be used for filibustering or other unlawful purposes, on penalty of forfeiting his protection.

3d. That Colonel Cauty should not molest any of the aforesaid property.

4th. That any agent, or any other agent from him, should negotiate at Aspinwall for the passage thence to the United States.

5th. That any stray arms hereafter found should be included in an inventory which had been made of the property given as security.

6th. That any sick, then at the Point, from whom contagion might be feared, should be kept there at the mutual expense of Costa Rica and Morgan & Son, and when well sent to the United States.

7th. No reference respecting this agreement, either to nations or individuals other than those represented by the present parties to it, should deprive the property of the company and of Mr. Scott of further protection from the fleet.

8th. The property on the point, as well as the collateral security of the draft—i. e., the property included in the inventory aforesaid—shall not be transferred from the present jurisdiction until a legally-constituted company shall arrange with Costa Rica respecting the transit.

The inventory which was attached to the agreement comprised the iron store, four brass-mounted field-pieces, ranging from 4 to 9 lbs. in calibre, nearly three hundred loose muskets, besides a dozen cases packed, some two hundred small kinds of powder, a large quantity of lead, loose and packed, near fifty boxes of made ammunition, and a number of cases of clothing, stores, &c.

FROM JAMAICA.

We learn from the Kingston Journal of 23d that, on the 16th of April, H. B. M. brig came into St. Ann's bay, having in tow an American schooner with 373 *slaves* on board, from Africa bound for Cuba. The name of the schooner is not given.

The schooner was captured at St. Ann's in consequence of this affair. It was rumored that another slave ship off the coast, from Africa, and a British steamer had started in pursuit.

On boarding the schooner, a horrible scene presented itself. The captives were in a most wretched condition—all of them were naked, and a majority of them on the verge of starvation! They were packed very closely together, and covered with vermin.

LATER FROM THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

The San Francisco papers have dates from Honolulu to March 12th.

FROM THE GUANO ISLANDS.—The *Litholite*, Captain Paty, recently arrived with about a hundred tons of guano from Jarvis and New Nantucket islands, caused no little excitement in Honolulu.

The appearance of the specimens of guano which we have seen is that of a fine powder, very much resembling snuff, without the strong smell which is characteristic of the Chincha guano. Under a microscope it appears to be composed of crystallized substance, and resembles snow. Good judges pronounce it to be first quality guano, but what its value is, compared with Chincha guano, remains to be determined.

About eight tons of the guano goes forward by the *barque* *Yankee*, to be sent on by the mail steamer, via Panama, to New York, the object being to land it in New York as soon as possible. The balance is being shipped on the clipper ship *Aspenia* to New York direct, and will reach that port about July 25th.

SHIP *MONTEBELLO* OF NEW BEDFORD.—This vessel, after a thorough and impartial survey, was condemned on Thursday last. Her oil (3,000 barrels) is being shipped by the *Aspenia* to New York.

She has been completely stripped, her lower masts only standing, and her hull in this condition sold at auction on Wednesday to Captain King for \$1,050. Her total catch, besides the hull, realized about \$5,000. Her hull is to be broken up.

It was selling at forty cents a pound in Honolulu. Trade had somewhat improved, owing to recent arrivals.

FROM THE N. Y. JOURNAL OF COMMERCE.

THE OCEAN TELEGRAPH.

Mr. Cyrus W. Field, who returned from England in the last steamer, whither he had gone on business connected with the "New York, Newfoundland, and London Telegraph Company," gives very encouraging accounts of the progress of the great Atlantic cable. The manufacturers continue to turn it out at a rapid rate, encountering no unexpected difficulty, so that there is every prospect of its being completed at the time already fixed—say by the latter part of July. Second only in importance to the construction of the cable is the perfection of the machinery to be employed in laying it down; and confidence in the success of this great enterprise is much increased by a knowledge of the extraordinary precautions which are taken with reference to this part of the work, to guard against the danger of failure. To more effectually overcome the engineering difficulties previously existing, it has been decided to dispense with the ponderous revolving drums heretofore employed in putting down sub-marine wires, and substitute therefor a series of rollers, the wire running out over and under them alternately. Connected with this apparatus is an ingenious piece of mechanism, which will precisely indicate the strain on the cable at all times, and the rapidity with which it is running out. The speed of the ship being proximately known, the process of laying the wire is very much simplified. Mr. Bright, the chief telegraphic engineer, personally superintends the preparation of this machinery, to be placed on each of the ships carrying the cable, viz., "Agamemnon" and "Niagara."

The former is to be placed on board the ship, and the latter on the *Niagara*, each with a large capacity for the wire. That part intended for the *Niagara* is so far advanced that the process of shipment might be commenced immediately, if the vessel was in port ready to receive it.

Great interest is manifested in England with reference to the construction of the cable, and the preparations made for shipping and laying it. As evidence of this, it may be stated that the Prince of Wales recently visited the establishment where the wire is making, in company with Mr. Field and others, for the purpose of witnessing the progress of the work; and while there a cannon was repeatedly discharged by means of electricity, transmitted through four hundred miles of the cable.

Quite a contest arose respecting the location of the main telegraphic office, at London or Liverpool; but the former was finally chosen.

The New York Mirror states that Mrs. Bently completed her task of walking for thirty consecutive hours at the *Tabernacle* at 10 o'clock on the night of the 29th ult. The Mirror adds that for the concluding eight minutes she walked without support, and did not appear to be greatly exhausted. She was vociferously cheered, and Capt. Rynders made a speech and set a good example by contributing \$3 to the box, towards the "support of the three fatherless children" in whose behalf Mrs. Bently walked. His example was very generally followed.

The Tampa Peninsula gives full credit to the recent statement announcing the discovery of an outlet for the swamp waters in the south of Florida. Officers of the army who have traversed the everglades at all stages in the editor that there is now less impediment to travel than before. It thinks troops in search of Indians will be able to continue scouting during the summer where it has heretofore been impossible.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

The Philadelphia Enquirer states that Mr. Charles Lefte has lately disappeared from that city under circumstances which occasion to his friends much anxiety. Mr. L. is a native of Bucks county, and has accumulated a handsome competency in business. He recently purchased a small farm in Hilltown, the price being \$4,300. Of this he paid \$500. Since March 23 nothing has been seen or heard of him. On that day he left the house of his brother, residing in Ninth street, near Franklin avenue, having on his person nearly \$4,000 in cash—\$2,000 in Delaware County Bank notes, of \$100 and \$500 each, and the balance in gold. He then informed his brother that he was going to Hilltown to complete the payment for the farm, and would take the cars on the Pennsylvania railroad. As we have before remarked, nothing has since been heard of him. He is a bachelor, 38 years of age, and a gentleman of undoubted character.

A short time since there was a very destructive fire in Mobile, Alabama, which destroyed some 12,000 bales of cotton. When the news reached the interior, a gentleman who had quite a large amount of cotton in the city took immediate measures to ascertain if he had sustained any loss. Upon learning that he had not, and upon consultation with his wife, he set apart \$25,000 as a donation to benevolent objects, as a thank-offering for providential preservation.

The Philadelphia Ledger states that the United States mint will begin on the 25th of May to pay out cents of the new issue, in exchange for Spanish and Mexican fractions of a dollar, and at the nominal rates, or in exchange for the copper cent now in circulation. Persons applying will be attended to in order, daily, between the hours of nine and two o'clock. The silver or copper coins must be presented in even sums of five dollars, and not exceeding fifty dollars.

A correspondent of the Mexican Extraordinary gives an interesting account of the mines of Sonora, Arizona, and Sinaloa, "throughout their whole extent, deep beneath the mountain sides, and in the valleys, are to be found chains of gold and silver lodes." The Apache Indians, according to the writer, have hitherto prevented the exploration of this country, whose mines would "purchase California with her mountains of gold."

The Daily Iowa State Gazette states that their spring immigration has commenced with a rush; that every passenger train over the Chicago and Burlington railroad that arrives in that city is crowded with people, and every steamboat from below lands upon the wharf loads of men, women, and children; all of whom are seeking homes in that growing and fertile State.

The New York Evening Post says: "High wages, unusual privileges, and poor servants are said to be the familiar trials this season of all New York householders. Ten, twelve, and fifteen dollars a month, and the prices once thought liberal, of six, seven, and eight dollars a month, will rarely command now either skill, experience, or character."

It is stated as quite a singular fact that Hancock was not originally elected as a delegate to the Continental Congress at Philadelphia. The illness of James Bowdoin's wife compelled Bowdoin to remain at home, and Hancock was selected in his stead. This trifling circumstance Hancock is indebted for the proud distinction he has gained of having his name enrolled—where all the world may read it—foremost on the roll of Independence.

The Philadelphia, Germantown, and Norristown Railroad Company intend erecting a new depot in Philadelphia, on the north side of Ninth and Green streets, and have purchased the site for that purpose. The old depot will be used solely for the accommodation of the passenger trains, and they also design erecting an extension to their depot on Ninth and Green streets.

Miss Jaquette, of Chester county, Pennsylvania, as before stated, was recently married, "as a joke," to some one of the opposite sex, and when too late, found that she was linked to a poor fellow. The old error was immediately applied for, and the bill has just passed both branches of the legislature, and becomes law.

The *Granada* (Miss.) Republican describes a colt which he saw in that place, and which has but three legs. Where the leg should have been there is a small piece of skin about an inch in length. The colt is only about three weeks old; is very strong, and with remarkable rapidity, and sold a day or two since for \$600.

The steamer New York left yesterday morning at the foot of Spring street, North river, in consequence of a pot of tar boiling over upon the deck. The damage was principally confined to the spars and rigging, and probably amounted to \$5,000. The loss is insured.

Mr. Charles Bartlett, principal of the Poughkeepsie (New York) Collegiate School, expired at his residence on Friday. He went to Poughkeepsie in 1856, and had charge of the Collegiate School ever since. He was about 60 years of age.

The Livingston (Ala.) Democrat says the fall of snow on Sunday, the 12th ult., is believed to have been the heaviest that ever occurred in that part of the country. It began in the morning about five o'clock, and continued to fall incessantly for six or seven hours.

The *Charleston Courier* announces that the *barque* *Casco*, at New York on the 24th ult., from Trinidad, Cuba, has arrived in that port, and is to be sold.

The principal lumber-dealers on the Ottawa, in Canada, have denounced the frying of pork by their lumbermen as a wasteful, expensive, and unhealthy process; and entered into a compact to instruct their foremen to see that this "wasteful practice be wholly abolished."

During the first three months of 1857 there arrived in San Francisco from England 3,669 men, 963 women, and 428 children—making a total of 5,060 souls. During the same period there departed 3,166 men, 286 women, and 157 children—in all, 3,609 souls; leaving an excess of arrivals equal to 1,451 souls.

The latest innovation in the business of insurance is one started by a company in New York city, looking to the insurance of rents and leases. The idea originated in Europe, where it is said to be successfully carried out. The next innovation, we apprehend, will be the insurance of bad debts.

The French government, through the exertion of M. de Persigny at London, have acquired the possession of the house and grounds on the Isle of St. Helena which served as a residence to Napoleon while in exile.

The shipments of coal in Pennsylvania by the Lehigh canal during the present season amount to 16,629 tons. The Lehigh Valley railroad for the past year are set down at 109,290 tons.

The New Orleans Delta states that the annual report of the president of the Baton Rouge, Grossa Tete, and Opelousas Railroad Company exhibits its affairs in a highly prosperous condition.

The hotels at Saratoga are being refitted, and will open about the first of June. An addition has been made to the United States Hotel, and also to Union Hall.

The Cunard mail steamer *Arabia* left New York yesterday morning for Liverpool, with 187 passengers and \$1,033,212 25 in specie.

The steamer *Hausa* arrived at Boston from Bremen on the 29th, with dates to the 9th. She had 500 passengers, and reports large fields of ice on the banks.

The Warrenton (Va.) Flag chronicles the death of Mrs. Judith Keith at the advanced age of ninety-eight years. She was the mother of five generations, and her living descendants number more than one hundred.

Two physicians of Wytheville, Virginia, administered a mixture of chloroform and ether to a boy of five years, on whom they wished to perform a surgical operation, and he died from its effects almost instantly.

The Cincinnati Gazette announces that Hon. Edward Ely will deliver his lecture on "Wages and Wealth" at the Young Men's Mercantile Library Association on two occasions—the evenings of May 7th and 9th.

The Rochester Advertiser states that the gale on the lake on the 29th was very heavy from the west, and that the steamers did not venture out.

The Belvidere (New Jersey) Intelligencer states that the appearance of the crops in that neighborhood gives promise of a good harvest. The grain has not been injured by the excessive cold except in a few localities.

The Mobile Daily Register thinks that, from the evidences of progress, the Mobile and Ohio railroad will be completed to Tibby river in time for the next crop.

The Stratford (Canada) Beacon states that a most disastrous fire broke out at that place on the 23d ultimo, which resulted in the destruction of seven buildings, valued at about \$18,000.

The sleighing was good in towns along the northern line of western Connecticut, and in western Massachusetts, last Friday.

The Hartford Times does not hear that any fruit trees in that State are sufficiently advanced to allow the buds to be nipped by the late cold weather.

The Selma (Alabama) Sentinel says that they had a heavy frost in that city on the 24th ult., and that everything in the way of vegetation looks badly.

LOCAL NEWS.

A FINE OPPORTUNITY FOR INVESTMENT.—Considering that Washington has but little commerce, the improvements of the city are extraordinary. With the increase of the business of the general government, however, there is necessarily an augmentation of the number of inhabitants; and it is a fact that, while the census of 1850 exhibits the population of this metropolis at forty thousand, three or four years from that time shows that it increased to fifty thousand, or equal to the entire population of the District of Columbia at the period of the enumeration. We will remember the many "waste places"—the little "settlements" on what were then regarded as "the outskirts"—and Washington was generally styled "the city of magnificent distances;" but now the habitations are becoming compact, and what was not long ago "the country" has become "the town."

Among the many improvements of last year was the erection of the immense printing establishment for the execution of the congressional and executive work, which has stimulated the building of private residences and places of business in the immediate neighborhood, and enhanced materially the value of real estate.

On Monday afternoon, the 4th instant, a fine opportunity will be presented for investment. Sixty valuable building lots in "Printing-office square" are to be sold at auction, and on such terms as will enable men of small means to secure to themselves comfortable homesteads. Only twenty per centum of the purchase money will be required in cash; the residue in annual payments of twenty per centum each until the whole is paid for; the deferred payments to bear interest, secured by a deed of trust on the property.

With a view to induce immediate building, the owners of the property will make a discount of five per cent. on the purchase money to any one who will erect a dwelling, to cost not less than eight hundred dollars, within one year from the day of sale.

The printing office on the northeast corner of the square affords constant employment to about five hundred hands; and this fact is stated to show that tenements would immediately find occupants. Besides, a number of first-class residences in that neighborhood are contemplated, and in several instances contracts are already made. In our opinion, money could not be more profitably and safely invested.

MAY BALL.—We are convinced that the public have not forgotten the *recherché* May festival balls that have been given heretofore by Professor Mundt, and we are satisfied that the ball at the "Old National" in 1855 has been more frequently borne in mind than any of the others, because of the large, gay, and fashionable company there assembled, and after a careful examination which crowned the exertions of the fastidious Professor to leave nothing undone that would in any way enhance their enjoyment. Natural as it is to recall pleasant past, it is still more consonant with human nature to contemplate the enjoyments in store for us in the future; and if we have awakened cherished recollections in the minds of our citizens, it has only been for the purpose of announcing that Professor Mundt has completed his arrangements for giving another "Grand Exhibition and May Festival Ball" this evening, at the Washington Assembly Rooms, on Louisiana avenue, between Fourth and a-half and Sixth streets.

This announcement cannot fail to bring out the beauty and fashion of Washington; and the only fear we have is, that there will not be flowers enough to decorate the blooming beauties who will by their presence add life and spirit to the occasion.

THE JAIL.—Several days ago the fact was recorded that two of the inmates made good their escape by sawing iron bars and letting themselves over the wall by a rope made of their bedtick. On Wednesday two other prisoners sought to follow in their foot-steps, having adopted similar appliances. They had made some progress, but just about the time they were bringing their labors to a close the guard interposed their veto.

It appears that a case-knife had been missed from the culinary department, and the officers, suspecting that it had fallen into the hands of some of the prisoners, instituted a search for it; during which they found a rope, made of strips of blanket, &c., secured in the bed of the prisoners above alluded to, and after a careful examination, instead of finding the lost knife, they found one of the bars of their grate sawed about half off. Consequently, heavy iron bars were placed upon those prisoners, to relieve themselves of which they *forked* over the knife, it having been converted into a saw, which they kept secreted during the day behind a piece of loose plastering, and with which they had loosened the bar of the grate.

Nothing has been heard of the two prisoners who escaped a few days since.

ORDWAY'S *ÆOLIAN*.—We are well aware that our citizens have been complaining of want of amusement, and not without reason, for, with the exception of the concert of Madame D'Angri, and the exhibition of Vaughn's Italia, there has been no entertainment which suited the public taste for several months past—in short, since the burning of the National Theatre. Ethiopian minstrelsy has long held a first rank in popularity with the people, and we doubt not that our citizens will be entirely cured of their *cuncta* after hearing on Monday night the next of a series of melodies to be given at Odd Fellows' Hall, in this city, by the Ordway minstrels, so famous in Boston. The concerts of this troupe have been highly spoken of by the northern press, and we can add that the programme of their performances is entirely new, embracing every variety of negro melody.

THE SHOOTING CASE.—The preliminary examination in the case of James Johnson, charged with shooting Daniel Gladman and Greengrass Sibley, on Monday evening last, on Seventh street, was conducted before Justice J. H. Goldard on Wednesday afternoon. It appears from the testimony elicited that a party of men and boys had been attacked upon Mr. Johnson's house, pelting it with stones, for which Mr. J. fired a gun, the contents of which took effect upon the persons of Gladman and Sibley. A house belonging to Mr. Johnson was burned some time ago. At the conclusion of the examination, Mr. Goldard decided to hold Mr. J. to bail in the sum of \$800 for his appearance at court. The bail was given and the accused departed.

CENTRE MARKET.—Centre Market was again a scene of bustling activity yesterday morning. No change, however, had taken place in the price of beef; pork remained at 124 cents per pound, and bacon had fallen two cents. The price of chickens had advanced to one dollar per pair; turkeys and ducks remaining stationary. Shad sold at from twenty-five to thirty-seven and a half cents a pair, and the large rock sold at one dollar and twenty-five cents a pound. The price of butter, and eggs were readily sold at sixteen cents a dozen—a falling off of two cents.

ACCIDENT.—On Wednesday evening, while a colored female servant in the family of Joseph S. Wilson, chief clerk of the General Land Office, was filling a small Britannia lamp, having a lighted paper in her hand, the lamp caught and exploded, covering her person with the burning material. She was alone at the time, and but for the timely aid of Capt. Duncan, who was somewhat injured himself in his endeavors to extinguish the flames, she would have been burned to death. She has been removed to the Infirmary, and it is yet uncertain whether or not she will recover.

THE CAPITOL EXTENSION.—The main features of operation in this gigantic work at present, besides the widening of marble and marble-cutters on the north, south, and east of the Capitol, are the excavations for the corridors between the centre building and the two new wings, and the elevation to their place of the cast-iron brackets, on which are to stand the east-iron pillars of the dome. A corps of about eighty artists are engaged in doing. The carving, freecutting, and painting the walls of the two extensions. A new kind of plaster has been introduced from Italy for the corridors and their appendages,